

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-2, 4-26 are pending. Claims 1, 9 and 13 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 21-26 are added. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 3, 9 and 13-20.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been objected to for containing a typographical error on the last line of claim 1. Claims 2-20 have been objected to based on their dependency from claim 1. Appropriate correction has been made.

Claim 3 has been objected to for not properly reciting the antecedent structure. Claim 3 has been canceled, thus rendering the objections to claim 3 moot.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these objections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,193,246 to Tanizawa et al. ("Tanizawa").

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of canceled dependent claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated distinguishes over Tanizawa. Applicants submit that amended

claim 1 now distinguishes over Tanizawa for at least the reasons indicated by the Examiner. Dependent claims 2, 4-8 and 10-12 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-8 and 10-12 distinguish over Tanizawa for at least the same reasons as their base claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 4-8 and 10-12 is requested.

Claims 9 and 13-20

Claim 9 depends from amended claim 1. Applicant submits that claim 9 is now in condition for allowance because it depends from amended claim 1, which now contains subject matter which distinguishes it over the prior art of record.

Claim 13 has been amended to recite the features of its base claim. Accordingly, claim 13 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 14-18 depend from claim 13. Applicants submit that claims 14-18 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-20 depend from amended claim 1. Applicant submits that claims 19-20 are now in condition for allowance because they depend from amended claim 1, which now contains subject matter which distinguishes it over the prior art of record.

Added Claims

Claims 21-26 have been added. Claims 21-26 distinguish over the prior art of record for at least the reasons recognized by the Examiner for claims 13-18.

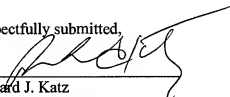
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1-26 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: November 12, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Richard J. Katz
Registration No.: 47,698
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 770
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008-0770
(212) 527-7700
(212) 527-7701 (Fax)
Attorney For Applicant(s)